

DATE: October 30, 2020

AUTHOR: John Donlevy, City Manager

SUBJECT: Friday Update

All,

First, a review of the City Council Meeting from this week:

- The City Council approved the "Amended Fiscal Year 2020-21" Budget. The City General Fund is \$13m with City-wide revenues down almost \$3.5m (due to reduced grants). Spending on capital projects (Airport, Streets, Sewer, Transit) is up almost \$12.8m. The General Fund saw a 2.8% decrease due to reductions in employee contracts and fewer grants. The City Council deferred actions on reducing the additional Fire Personnel pending the outcome of Measure S. The next budget review will be in February, 2021.
- Lots of "talking trash" with a Staff/Recology presentation on the dynamics of the waste industry. Look for many changes in recycling, green/organic waste, multi family and commercial services and a higher regulatory framework from the State.
- A presentation from Pioneer Energy on the status of the community choice aggregation system and the potential addition of agencies from El Dorado County.
- Also on the Agenda were approval of plaques for Downtown, Fall and Christmas Decorations for City Hall, the ADA Transition Plan and IT Services for City operations.

A couple items from the City Manager's Office:

- Staff met with the County Chief Executive Officer to discuss projects of mutual interest between Placer County and the City of Auburn. A really good meeting talking about mutual issues of interest, regional projects and future cooperation.

- Staff met this morning with representatives from the United Auburn Council to talk projects and areas of mutual interest. The UAC is an important Tribe in the region, is a key economic partner in the area and a very important collaborator for the City moving forward. I would describe the meeting as stellar and we agreed to joint meetings with the Tribe in early 2021.
- The City submitted a project proposal to the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) for a joint planning project along Nevada and Fulweiler Streets for the development of a multi model, transit oriented redevelopment plan which would include business, residential and commercial uses. The City request is for \$550k in funding toward the project.
- Staff met with the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board to discuss enforcement issues related to the closed Auburn Landfill. The meeting focused on the submission of an upcoming monitoring report, financial issues of the enforcement actions and the overall process on finding resolution to a number of issues.
- We are trying our best to work with the Gold Country Faire Grounds to resolve the noise issues from their concerts and activities.
- It looks like the State of California will be requiring Placer County to move in to the “red zone” in the spectrum of Covid 19 regulation and compliance. We will know on Tuesday. The biggest change will mean restaurants will be limited to 25% of their indoor seating capacity.
- The City will be very committed to working with our business community to traverse through the new status and to find solutions for them to remain vibrant as we enter the winter season!

Finally, I have just completed my ninth (9) week as the City Manager of Auburn and there is an absolute “coolness” factor to this community which differentiates it from the others. A couple examples:

- Last Saturday, I decide that I am going to start my “long run” into the canyon from Downtown. I park just off of High Street and start walking up the street. A guy comes up and asks “are you with the running group?” My reply is “no, but how far are you going to run?” He replies, “just 10 miles!” I ask to join and I met an awesome group of runners who are inviting me back. The takeaway, I can assure you that there are very few communities with roving bands of people socially running 10 miles on Saturdays!
- On my Monday early run, I find myself running with an Olympian along side. Realize I am a 56 year old guy who is never going to qualify for any major race, but I get to share the trail with some of the most elite runners in the world. Same dirt, rocks and roots to avoid.



- I cast my ballot and get to vote for Gordon Ainsleigh for the ARD. Epic runner and founder of one of the worlds greatest endurance events and yup, I get to vote for him to represent me locally. My daughter thought that was the best vote of the year!

Auburn is a special place where the ordinary meet the extra-ordinary!

Have a nice weekend and Happy Halloween!

John W. Donlevy, Jr., City Manager

City of Auburn

1225 Lincoln Way

Auburn, CA 95603

(530) 823-4211 Ext 192